

**Sport Fishing**  
**Decision Document Package**  
**for**  
**ST. CATHERINE CREEK NWR**



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2. EA/FONSI
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**Sport Fishing**  
**Decision Document Package**  
**for**  
**ST. CATHERINE CREEK NWR**



**Contents**

1. Fishing Plan

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MEMORANDUM

Within the spirit and intent of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and have determined that the action of: Opening St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge to Sport Fishing.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a categorical exclusion as provided by 516 DM 6 Appendix 1.  
No further documentation will be made.

X \_\_\_\_\_ is found not to have significant environmental effects as determined by the attached Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact.

\_\_\_\_\_ is found to have special environmental conditions as described in the attached Environmental Assessment. The attached Finding of No Significant Impact will not be final nor any actions taken pending a 30-day period for public review [40 CFR 1501.4(e)(2)].

\_\_\_\_\_ is found to have significant effects, and therefore a "Notice of Intent" will be published in the Federal Register to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement before the project is considered further.

\_\_\_\_\_ is denied because of environmental damage, Service policy, or mandate.

\_\_\_\_\_ is an emergency situation. Only those actions necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency will be taken. Other related actions remain subject to NEPA review.

Other supporting documents:

- Fishing Plan
- EA/FONSI
- Section 7 Evaluation
- Compatibility
- Refuge Specific Regulations

Robert F. Bartz 1-24-91  
Initiator Date

James M. Pulliam 2/6/91  
Regional Director Date

Harold W. Benson 2/1/91  
ARD/Refuges and Wildlife Date

James M. D. Dumb 2-7-91  
Associate Manager RF-2 Date

Dennis E. Chase 2/4/91  
REC Date

Nancy C. Coon 2/4/91  
Date Acting ARD/AWE Date

SPORT FISHING PLAN

ST. CATHERINE CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

DECEMBER 1990

Recommended by: Thomas J. Spusa Date 1-4-91  
Refuge Manager

Reviewed by: Samuel C. Wilson Date 1-8-91  
Acting Field Supervisor, FWE, Uclesburg, MC.

Robert F. Bantch Date 2-1-91  
ARW/W/m

John H. Mink Date 2-1-91

Approved by: James M. Williams Date 2/6/91  
Regional Director

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge is being established to preserve wintering habitat for Mallards, Pintails, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Ducks and production habitat for Wood Ducks to meet the habitat goals presented in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Establishment of the refuge and proper management will provide excellent wintering waterfowl habitat and a needed waterfowl refuge in the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

The refuge is located in the western section of Adams County (in Southwest Mississippi), about 7 miles south of the City of Natchez. The western Boundary is the Mississippi River with the Eastern Boundary basically following the Bluffs. Access to the property is by county roads and farm lanes. The potential size will be around 22,000 acres. To date, approximately 6,950 acres have been purchased and the migratory bird commission has approved the purchase of two more tracts consisting of approximately 6,700 acres to be purchased in fiscal year 1991. Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge lies 35 miles to the west and Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge lies 50 miles north.

Habitat within the area consists of bottomland and upland hardwoods, cleared land, cypress swamps, accreted land, and fallow fields. Flooding from the Mississippi River is a frequent occurrence and topography varies from flats to depressional swales and larger basins which fill with water from rains or backwater flooding.

Historically maximum flooding in the St. Catherine creek area has occurred in the Spring while minimum water levels are usually experienced in the Fall. Old St. Catherine Creek and Butler Lake are the two permanent water bodies on the refuge.

Refer to the environmental assessment for additional information.

## II. CONFORMANCE

The Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 460K) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to administer refuges, Hatcheries, and other conservation areas for recreational use, when such uses do not interfere with the primary objectives for which the area was established. In addition, the Refuge Recreation Act requires (1) that any recreational use permitted will not interfere with the

primary purpose for which the area was established; and (2) that funds are available for the development, operations, and maintenance of the permitted forms of recreation.

Sport fishing is a recreational use authorized by the regulations and will not interfere with the primary purposes for which St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established. This determination is based upon consideration of the Service's Final Environmental Impact Statement of the Operations of the National Wildlife Refuge System in November 1976, and the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Plan, the Environmental Assessment, and the Section 7 Evaluation.

### III. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Preservation, improvement, and creation of habitat for waterfowl are the primary goals for St. Catherine National Wildlife Refuge. In order to meet specific refuge and other broader U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service directives, the following objectives have been established for St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge:

1. To provide and maintain optimum habitat for migratory waterfowl consistent with the overall objectives of the Mississippi Flyway.
2. To provide habitat and protection for endangered species including the Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle.
3. To provide habitat for a natural diversity of wildlife and plant species.
4. To provide opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation and environmental education when compatible with other refuge objectives.

The proposed sport fishing program would be designed to contribute to or be compatible with refuge objectives. It would provide a high quality wildlife-oriented recreation to the general public and the opportunity to utilize a renewable resource.

Refer to the Environmental Assessment for additional information.

## **SPORT FISHING PLAN**

### **ST. CATHERINE CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

#### **II. Conformance With Statutory Requirements**

**ADDENDUM** When the refuge is fully developed, approximately 100,000 visitor days of sport fishing will occur. The annual Service cost of the program will be \$8,000. The necessary funds for the fishing program administration will be available in the annual refuge budget.



#### IV. ASSESSMENT

Backwater from the Mississippi River and the Old St. Catherine Creek periodically flood a significant portion of the area because of its slight relief and sump-like nature. The area contains approximately 500 acres of permanent water. These areas can support a fishable population of game fish such as bass, crappie, other sunfish species, catfish, and "rough" fish capable of sustaining fishing pressure.

As the refuge grows in size, access to various lakes, sloughs, and the Old St. Catherine Creek will be controlled by the refuge. In the future, after acquisition, the refuge will need to upgrade the road and develop a primitive boat launching facility for Butler Lake.

The backwater flooding situation will probably be the most popular type of fishing situation. The small impoundment fishing will be limited initially to access.

Refer to the environmental assessment for additional information.

#### V. DESCRIPTION OF FISHING PROGRAM

Areas that will support the fisheries resource are limited to the impounded water areas, creeks, and the backwater areas of the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge. At present, approximately 6,950 acres have been acquired and a total of over 22,000 acres is in the acquisition area to be purchased depending on availability of willing sellers and funding. As additional land is acquired, it will be managed according to refuge objectives. Areas open to sport fishing would depend on waterfowl use during the migration period. Waterfowl resting and feeding areas may be closed to the public to protect waterfowl from disturbance during the winter months. These areas would be closed to sport fishing. Other areas may be open to sport fishing throughout the fishing season.

State regulations and Creel limits would be adopted and no permits would be required.

The sport fishing program will be monitored by refuge personnel. At this point, it is difficult to estimate the cost of the fishing program. Cost would include personnel time, equipment, fuel, supplies, etc.

Included in this cost would be periodic checks of Creel limits and licenses during the permitted sport fishing season.

VI. MEASURES TAKEN TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH OTHER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

A. Biological Conflicts

See Section 7 Environmental Assessment. The fishing program is designed to minimize disturbance to Over-wintering waterfowl. Time and space zoning will be used if necessary in order to meet refuge objectives. This will be determined as more land is acquired.

B. PUBLIC USE CONFLICTS

The proposed sport fishing program will be designed through time and space zoning to minimize conflicts between other refuge programs. Hunting will probably be the most major use conflict. As additional land is acquired, changes in both the fishing and hunting program will be necessary in order to accommodate the hunter and fisherman. These changes will take place as the refuge is developed and public use programs are fine tuned.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE CONFLICTS

At this time, no administrative conflicts are anticipated. As the refuge increases in size and programs, and additional fishermen utilize the fishing resource, increased funding and staffing will be necessary. The fishing program then may be in direct competition with other refuge programs. This is mentioned because it does warrant planning to minimize potential manpower and funding shortages to administer planned refuge programs.

VII. CONDUCT OF THE SPORT FISHING PROGRAMS

A. Refuge-Specific Fishing Regulations

The fishing program will follow the frame work established by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. The refuge fishing program will be reviewed annually and amended accordingly through refuge regulations and season lengths.

B. Anticipated Public Reaction to the Sport Fishing Program

Refer to the "Finding of No Significant Impact" of the Environmental Assessment.

C. Media Selection for Announcing and Publicizing the Sport Fishing Program

The refuge will maintain a mailing list, for news release purposes, of newspapers and local radio stations. News releases will be developed announcing the fishing season dates, where regulations can be obtained, and other pertinent information. The news releases will then be mailed to each of the contacts on the list.

D. Angler Requirement

Specific fishing regulations governing the taking of fish (permitted equipment, licenses, creel limits) will be in accordance with state regulations. Fires and camping are prohibited. Refuge permits to fish will not be required. Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight and may be restricted to certain areas. Outboard motor horsepower limits may be designated to protect habitat.

**Sport Fishing**  
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**ST. CATHERINE CREEK NWR**



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2. EA/FONSI

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROPOSED  
OPENING ST. CATHERINE CREEK NWR TO SPORT FISHING

ADAMS COUNTY,  
MISSISSIPPI

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT  
REFUGE MANAGER  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ST. CATHERINE CREEK NWR  
P.O. BOX 18639  
NATCHEZ, MS 39122

Prepared by:  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Natchez, Mississippi  
December 1990

## I. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

### Purpose

The purpose of the proposed action is to legally open St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge to sport fishing.

### Need

As the refuge expands in size, opportunities will be available for sport fishing of bass, crappie, other sunfish, species, catfish, and "Rough" fish in the creeks, impoundments and during backwater flooding on the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Fishing is an acceptable wildlife-oriented recreational use and would be compatible with other programs and objectives of the refuge.

## II. THE PROPOSED ACTION AND THE ALTERNATIVES

### A. Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposes to open St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge to sport fishing. Approximately 6,950 acres have been acquired from a proposed acquisition of 22,000 acres. Fishing activities would be provided in general conformity with Mississippi State seasons and Creel limits, subject to localized and seasonal closures when conflicts between waterfowl management and other programs exist. Specific refuge regulations would be developed.

### B. No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge would not be opened to sport fishing.

### C. Close Specific Areas to Fishing Year-Round

Under this alternative, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would close specific parts of the refuge to fishing.

### D. Open Entire Refuge to Fishing Year-Round

Under this alternative, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would provide fishing opportunities throughout the year.

### III. DESCRIPTION OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The refuge is adjacent to the Mississippi River in Adams County, Mississippi. This flat to gently rolling area was formed as the Mississippi River deposited alluvial soil during flood cycles.

Over 80% of the soils within the proposal are classified as poorly drained. These soils are subject to flooding annually and are waterlogged in lower areas for long periods. Natural flooding usually occurs in the spring. Because of the flooding hazard, the row crop planting season is frequently delayed. However, crops have been successfully grown in all but extremely wet years.

Historically maximum flooding in the St. Catherine Creek Area has occurred in the spring while minimum water levels are usually experienced in the fall. In order for this area to be of maximum benefit for wintering waterfowl, water level management is necessary in order to ensure available water during the waterfowl migrations. This can be accomplished through impounding spring water, retaining rainfall, utilizing existing water wells, pumping from permanent water, and opportunistic use of Mississippi River backwater flooding.

Permanent water bodies within the refuge are Old St. Catherine Creek and Butler Lake. Approximately 500 acres of permanent water are available in the refuge. Butler Lake is the largest permanent water body and contains approximately 400 acres of permanent water.

Primary species of bottomland hardwood timber within the refuge consist of tupelo gum, bald cypress, sycamore, sweet pecan, black willow, nuttall oak, hackberry, cottonwood, sweetgum, and water oak. The upland hardwoods on the bluff consist primarily of white oak, red oak, magnolia, hickory and beech. Accreted lands along the river are predominantly pure willow stands.

Approximately 500 acres of cleared land not in cultivation have reverted to outstanding moist soil plant production areas with wild millets being the primary plant species. Smartweeds, foxtail, signal grass, and sedges are also very common plants and form the dominant non-agricultural plant composition.

Agricultural crops currently being grown are soybeans and winter wheat. Cotton has not been grown since 1970. Currently 1,656 acres, in the Conservation Reserve Program, are being planted with oak seedlings.

The refuge is a backwater wetland complex lying at the base of the alluvial escarpment and consisting of four distinct topographic features: batture, natural levees, ridges and swales, and basins and flats. Approximately 35% percent of the area is cleared land, 30% is woods or swamps, 20% is open water, and 15% is accreted land. The batture, a flat, low area between the natural levees and the Mississippi River, consists of sandbars and old river scars in various stages of oxbow lake development. Land has been rapidly accreting in this area and over 1,000 acres have been added to adjacent landowners over the last 15 years.

The natural levees parallel the river and are formed by the heaviest sediments which are the first to settle as the river periodically rises and inundates the floodplain. Due to the rich soil and higher elevations, these areas were generally the first to be cleared and farmed as land clearing advanced into the floodplain. Historically, the natural levees supported mixed hardwoods. Within the refuge, most of the natural levees are in agricultural production (soybeans, wheat) or set aside programs. Ridges and swales are the remnant landforms resulting from historic meanders of the river.

Due to a system of ditches and water control structures, some of this area is being farmed, other areas still support bottomland hardwoods, and still other areas, previously cleared, are reverting to natural moist soil vegetation. Basins and flats consist of swamp areas, generally occupying low elevations near the escarpment or bluff line. Other depressional areas occur along Old St. Catherine Creek and spread out across the floodplain. As river flooding stages continue to increase above the natural levee elevations, overland flows commence and fill depressional swales.

A well developed system of ditches and control structures are in place over most of the refuge. These structures were designed primarily to take water off the cleared land in the spring; however, they can also be operated to hold water on the property during waterfowl season. In addition to several operational water wells, there are a number of natural springs originating in the adjacent hills. A major ditch has been constructed to divert sediment laden flows from Old St. Catherine Creek around Butler Lake.



Several times since passage of the Flood Control Act of 1928, the Corps of Engineers has conducted studies to determine the feasibility of providing flood control to lands south of Natchez on the Mississippi River east bank. A recent study, done by the Corp in 1986, proposed construction of a 12.4 mile ring levee and installation of a 300 cfs pump with appurtenant channels. The Service concluded that as proposed the project would result in the loss of increasingly scarce Mississippi River floodplain habitat, a resource that has already been reduced throughout the Lower Mississippi Valley to critical levels.

Subsequently, the Corps redesigned this project to include only a 3.7 mile ring levee north of the proposed refuge boundary for a planned port expansion for Natchez. The Service has no objection to the project as now proposed.

A preliminary contaminant survey of the refuge was conducted by the Service. The investigation consisted of interviews with State and Federal agencies, a review of pertinent reports and data, and a cursory reconnaissance of the acquisition area. There were no samples collected or chemical analyses conducted.

The principal contaminant concerns relate to oil production and past agricultural practices. There are several small oil fields on the refuge. Oil spills and brine discharges to surface, as well as ground waters, are potential problems. The Environmental Protection Agency has been contacted to conduct a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure inspection of the area. Based on current and recent agricultural practices, pesticides should not be of particular concern.

The St. Catherine Creek area has historically wintered large concentrations of ducks and, with the recent increase in winter wheat production, limited numbers of geese. Mallards, pintails and other dabblers utilize the basins, flats and depressional swales filled with shallow water from winter rains or backwater flooding. Wood ducks are found primarily in the cypress swamps and the permanent water areas contain good concentrations of ring-neck and scaup.

Midwinter waterfowl surveys for the Natchez to the Louisiana line (Adams and Wilkinson Counties during the last two years averaged 35,600 Mallards and 6,700 pintails. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife Conservation has indicated that this area winters up to 100,000 ducks (70% Mallards) in years of favorable water conditions.

The St. Catherine Creek area is significant to wintering waterfowl due to: (1.) geographic location in the Mississippi Flyway, (2.) habitat diversity, and (3.) seasonal flooding. At present no other Federal or State waterfowl refuge is located along the Mississippi River south of Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge within the State of Mississippi, a distance of about 120 miles.

Other game birds include doves which can be observed in great abundance feeding along roadsides, in grain fields, or perched along electric lines. Quail are also common in the fallow fields and woodcock are a regular winter resident.

Raptors frequent the fallow fields in search of rodents. Bald eagles, attracted by natural mortality of the waterfowl concentrations, winter in this area. Wading birds are abundant and species regularly observed include green-backed herons, cattle egrets, snowy egrets, great egrets, little blue herons, great blue herons, anhingas, white ibis, glossy ibis, and Louisiana herons. Endangered species likely to occur on the proposal area are wintering bald eagles, wood storks, and occasionally migrating peregrine falcons.

Thousands of shore birds utilize both the permanent water and the hundreds of acres of converted wetlands, most of which have now reverted to moist soil vegetation. The bottomland hardwood forests serve as both permanent homes and migration habitat for many species of passerine birds.

Big game species include deer and turkey. Deer are abundant and several clubs have most of the proposal area leased for deer hunting. This is an annual lease which would be terminated upon acquisition by the Service.

Small game and furbearers are prevalent. Squirrel and rabbit are very common on the project area as are coyote, beaver, otter, mink, nutria, raccoon, gray fox, red fox, bobcat, and opossum.

The impounded water area, creeks, and the backwater areas of Old St. Catherine Creek support commercial fish such as catfish, buffalo, and gar. Game fish populations of crappie, bass, and other sunfish species are excellent.

#### IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

##### A. Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

Opening of the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge to sport fishing of bass, crappie, and other gamefish is an acceptable, traditional form of wildlife-oriented recreation. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966,<sup>1</sup> as amended,<sup>1</sup> and the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 to permit sport fishing on any refuge if it is compatible with the major purposes for which the refuge was established.

Approximately 6,950 acres have been acquired from a proposed acquisition of over 22,000 acres. As additional land is acquired, it would be managed to conform to refuge objectives. Resting areas may be set aside to protect wintering waterfowl from disturbance during the winter months. These areas would be closed to fishing. As acquisition progresses, other areas may be open for fishing under special refuge regulations depending on time of year, location, and access.

##### B. No Action

Beneficial impacts of this alternative would include greater protection of endangered species, less trash and less disruption of waterfowl populations. Waterfowl would be able to utilize the entire refuge and not be restricted to time and location restrictions. Also there would be no impact on the hunt program. This alternative would result in a reduction in public use activity and would not permit the harvest of a renewable resource. There would be less impact on small game such as squirrel and large game such as turkey and deer. This alternative could result in a loss of revenue for the local area from the consumptive sportsman.

C. Close Specific Areas to Fishing Year-Round

Under this alternative, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would close predetermined areas to sport fishing for the entire fishing season. As in the no action alternative this would impact the public by ;not providing recreational opportunities for fishing. If the fishing activity is compatible with the purposed for which the refuge was established, is consistent with principles of sound fish management, and is in the public interest, these specific areas should be opened..

D. Open Entire Refuge to Fishing Year-Round

This alternative would not take into consideration refuge objective and the purposes for which the refuge was established. Also, sport fishing may conflict with other wildlife-oriented public use programs. Time and space management may have to be accomplished to ensure the opportunity for a quality experience for both anglers and other refuge users.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHERS

Contacts were made throughout the area of the refuge in order to develop the accompanying fishing plan. Mississippi's Chief of Fisheries was contacted to inform him of the process needed to open fishing on the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Also, Fisheries Assistance Biologist, located in Natchitoches, was made aware of the need to open the refuge to fishing, and will be involved in our fisheries management.

FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR

OPENING SPORT FISHING

ON

ST. CATHERINE CREEK NWR

I have determined that the proposed opening of fishing on the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge will not have a significant effect on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

This determination is based on the following reasons:

1. This proposal is compatible with general Service policy regarding the establishment of fishing on a National Wildlife Refuge.
2. This proposal is compatible with the purposes for which the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established.
3. This proposal does not initiate widespread controversy or litigation.
4. There are no conflicts with local, Regional, State, or Federal plans or policies.

Supporting Reference:

1. Environmental Assessment (attached)
2. Section 7 Endangered Species Evaluation (attached)
3. Refuge Fishing Plan (attached)
4. Refuge Objectives (Attachment 1)

2/6/91

Date

  
Regional Director

**Sport Fishing**  
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**ST. CATHERINE CREEK NWR**



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**3. Section 7 Evaluation**

## **SECTION 7 EVALUATION**

**REGION:** 4

**LOCATION (ATTACH MAP):**

St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Adams County,  
Mississippi

**LISTED SPECIES OR CRITICAL HABITAT CONSIDERED:**

Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle

**NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:**

The proposed action would open the St. Catherine Creek NWR to sport fishing. It would be in accordance with Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks regulations, 50CFR, and special refuge regulations.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION:**

To provide sport fishing on St. Catherine Creek NWR. Sport fishing is an acceptable, traditional form of wildlife-oriented recreation and is compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT OF ACTION OF LISTED SPECIES OR CRITICAL HABITAT:**

Proposed action will not affect listed species.

**RECOMMENDATION TO AVOID ANY IMPACTS:**

In order to avoid any future impacts on the above listed species, each acquired tract will be monitored for endangered species use and regulations or closures will be used to protect endangered species from impacts.

SECTION 7 EVALUATION

PROJECT LEADER:

Thomas J. Spusa

DATE

1-4-91

COMMENTS:

WILL NOT AFFECT:

X

MAY AFFECT

ENDANGERED SPECIES SUPERVISOR:

Russell C Wetan

DATE

1/8/91

COMMENTS:

WILL NOT AFFECT:

X

MAY AFFECT

ARD-

Acting Dr. A. M. D. and

DATE

2-1-91

COMMENTS:

WILL NOT AFFECT:

X

MAY AFFECT

ARD-FA:

DATE

COMMENTS:

WILL NOT AFFECT:

MAY AFFECT:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

DATE

COMMENTS:

WILL NOT AFFECT:

BIOLOGICAL OPINION:



# ST. CATHERINE CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

UNITED STATES  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

R 9 E R 10 E

91°25'

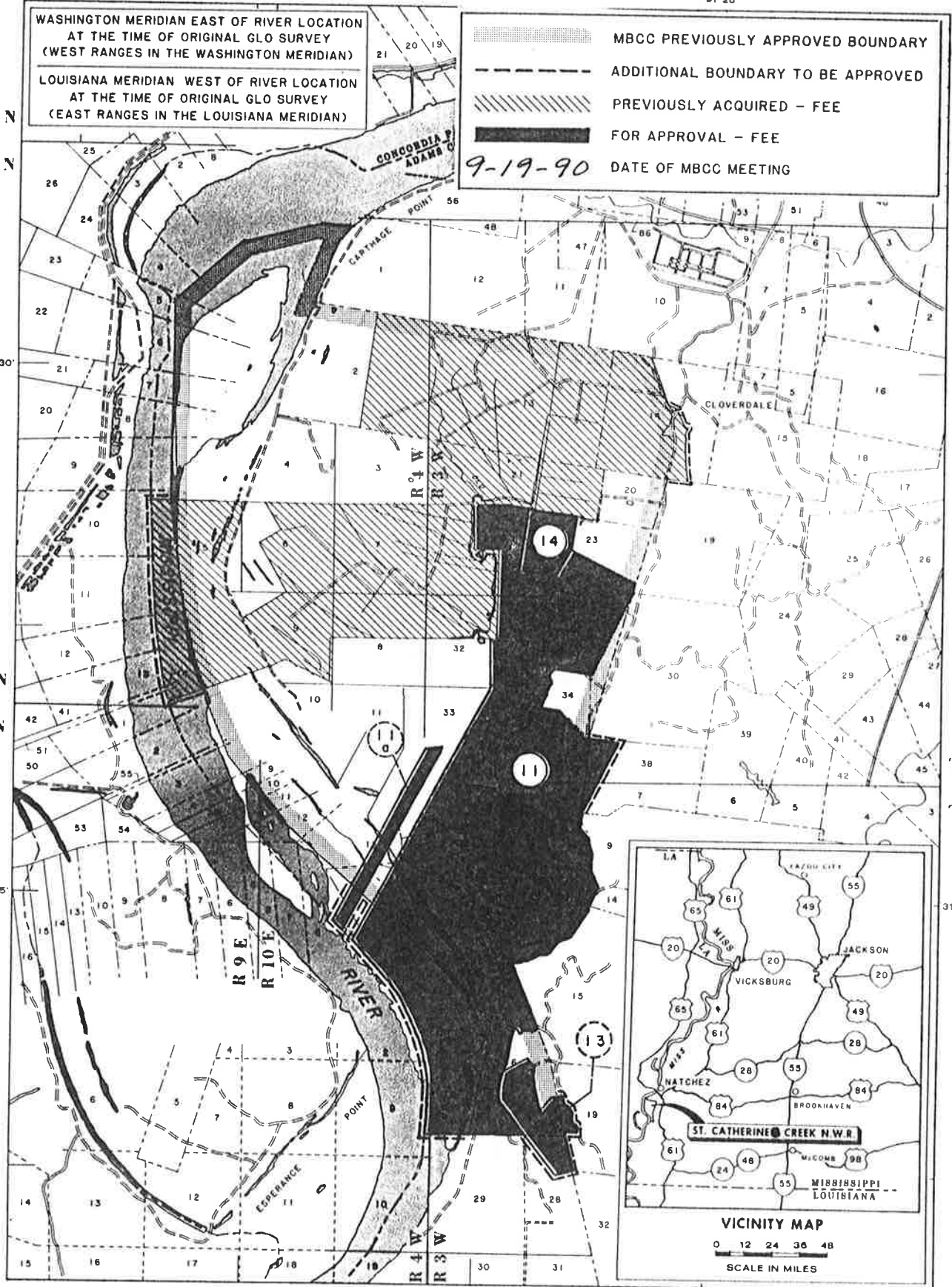
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T 5 N

31°25'



COMPILED IN THE DIVISION OF REALTY  
FROM SURVEYS BY U. S. G. S.

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WASHINGTON MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

0 2000 4000 8000 12000 16000 FEET

0 1/2 1 2 MILES

ATLANTA, GEORGIA AUGUST, 1989

True North  
Magnetic N  
MEAN DECLINATION  
1989

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**4. Compatibility Statement**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

page 1

Station Name: St. Catherine Creek NWR Date Established: 1989

Establishing Authority: Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1927 and Emergency Wetland Resources Act of 1986

Purpose(s) for which Established: To protect and preserve a portion of internationally significant waterfowl habitat

Description of Proposed use: Open sport fishing on the St. Catherine Creek NWR

Anticipated Impacts on Refuge Purpose(s): No detrimental impacts are anticipated.

Determination:

This use is compatible X This use is not compatible \_\_\_\_\_  
(Check one)

The following stipulations are required to ensure compatibility:

To insure compatibility, time and zone restrictions may be implemented as land acquisition progresses.

Justification: Sport fishing is compatible with the objectives of the refuge and provides recreational opportunities and consumptive public use of a renewable resource.

Prepared by:

Thomas F. Prusa - Refuge Manager Thomas F. Prusa  
(Name/Title/Signature/Date) 1-4-91

Reviewed by:

Russell C. Watson - Acting Field Supervisor Russell C. Watson  
(Name/Title/Signature/Date) 1-8-91

Reviewed by:

Robert F. Bartels - Wildlife Biologist (ARW/WHM) Robert F. Bartels 2-14-91  
(Name/Title/Signature/Date)

Travis H. McDaniel - Associate Mgr. Dist 2 Travis H. McDaniel  
(Name/Title/Signature/Date)

Norald W. Lensing 2/1/91 ARW  
(Name/Title/Signature/Date)

ST. CATHERINE CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

REFUGE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide and maintain optimum habitat for migratory waterfowl consistent with the overall objectives of the Mississippi flyway.
2. To provide habitat and protection for endangered species including the Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle.
3. To provide habitat for a natural diversity of wildlife and plant species.
4. To provide opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation and environmental education when compatible with other refuge objectives.

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5. Letter of Concurrence



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
Department of Wildlife,  
Fisheries and Parks**

**RAY MABUS**  
Governor

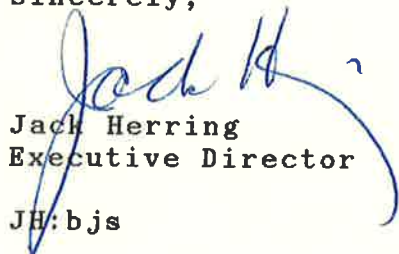
January 23, 1991

Mr. Thomas F. Prusa  
Refuge Manager  
United States Department of the Interior  
St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 18639  
Natchez, MS 39122

Dear Mr. Prusa:

This letter will serve as notice that the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks concurs with your recommendations that public fishing be permitted on and made part of the management of the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,

  
Jack Herring  
Executive Director

JH:bjs

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**6. Refuge-Specific Regulations**

## REFUGE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

Sport fishing will be permitted on the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge subject to the following refuge specific regulations:

1. Fishing and public access is permitted during daylight hours only from March 1 through September 15 in areas designated by refuge signs and/or leaflets.
2. Fishing and public access may be permitted year-round during daylight hours only in some areas, if designated by refuge signs and/or leaflets.
3. Access to the refuge fishing areas is restricted to roads and trails designated by refuge signs and/or leaflets.
4. Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.